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Press Release

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Idaho Potato Stocks Up 12 percent from Last Year

Potato stocks held by growers, dealers, and processors in Idaho on May 1 totaled 36.5 million cwt, 4.0 million cwt more than on hand May 1, 2009. Disappearance, at 94.5 million cwt is up from last year's 84.0 million cwt. Disappearance during April, at 14.5 million cwt, is the largest April disappearance since April 2003. Stocks in the 10 Southwest counties totaled 1.7 million cwt, up from last year's 1.2 million cwt. The Other counties' stocks, at 34.8 million cwt, were up from the 31.3 million cwt stored on May 1, 2009. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 6.90 million cwt of 2009 crop raw potatoes during April, up 5.5 percent from April 2009. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon have used 56.1 million cwt of 2009 crop raw potatoes to May 1, up 1.0 percent from last year. Idaho potatoes accounted for 49.6 million cwt of the total processed. The remaining 6.46 million cwt were produced in other states.

Nationally, the 13 major potato States held 87.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2010, up 11 percent from a year ago. Potatoes in storage accounted for 23 percent of the 2009 fall storage States' production, 2 percentage points above May 1, 2009. Potato disappearance, at 297 million cwt, was 2 percent above May 1, 2009. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 26.6 million cwt, was up 19 percent from the same date in 2009. Processors in the 9 major States have used 142 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 5 percent from the same period last year. Dehydrating usage accounted for 26.6 million cwt of the total processing, down 6 percent from last year.

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